

Message Text

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08794 251123Z

53

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 COME-00 RSR-01 /069 W
----- 048879

R 251002Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 625

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 8794

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR UR

SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL OBSERVATIONS PYATIGORSK-KIEV, JULY 15-21

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE PASS G. STANLEY BROWN

1. ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE TRAVELED BY CAR PYATIGORSK-KRASNODAR-ROSTOV-KHARKOV-ZAPOROZHE-POLTAVA-KIEV JULY 15-21.

2. SUMMARY: HARVESTING OF WINTER GRAINS GENERALLY IS PROGRESSING SLOWLY, ESPECIALLY IN NORTH CAUCASUS WHERE HARVEST AT THIS TIME IS USUALLY AHEAD OF THAT IN EASTERN UKRAINE. RAINS THAT INTERRUPTED AND DELAYED COMPLETION OF HARVEST IN NORTH CAUCASUS IS ALSO RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO WINDROWED GRAINS. HARVESTING OF SPRING GRAINS IS BARELY STARTING AND IS MOSTLY OF BARLEY, WHILE THE BULK OF OATS REMAINS UNCUT. ROW CROPS AIDED BY RAINS ARE EXCELLENT AND DEVELOPING FAVORABLE. THIS IS ALSO TRUE OF FORAGE CROPS AND PASTURES THAT HAVE BENEFITED FROM RAINS. SOIL MOISTURE WAS GOOD. END SUMMARY

3. WINTER GRAINS: ALL WINTER WHEAT OBSERVED APPEARED RIPE AND READY TO BE HARRVESTED. THE EXTENT OF HARVESTING HOWEVER WAS SURPRISINGLY LIMITED, ESPECIALLY IN THE KRASNODAR KRAY, ROSTOV AND KHARKOV OBLASTS WHERE HARVESTING NORMALLY STARTS EARLIER THAN IN THE UPPER TIER OF UKRAINIAN OBLASTS. THROUGH THE PYATIGORSK-KHARKOV PORTION OF TRIP WINTER WHEAT HAD BEEN HARVESTED ON ONE-THIRD OF THE FIELDS IN THE SOUTH AND ON ABOUT ONE-HALF OF THE FIELDS IN THE NORTH. LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE FIELDS WERE IN WINDOWS -- WITH THE GREATEST SHARE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08794 251123Z

LOCATED IN THE KRASNODAR KRAY. SOME WINDROWS BETWEEN PYATIGORSK AND KRASNODAR WERE FLATTENED AND DISCOLORED BY RAIN -- SOME WERE TURNING BLACK. LARGE PROPORTION OF FIELDS HAD STRAW IN SMALL STACKS -- APPARENTLY COMPLETE REMOVAL WAS PREVENTED BY THE RAINS. WITH A FEW

EXCEPTIONS WEATHER WAS SUNNY DURING THE ENTIRE TRIP -- YET HARDLY ANY WORK WAS OBSERVED ON THE WINDROWED FIELDS. IN THE REST OF FIELDS GRAIN IN MOST WINDROWS WAS OF GOOD QUALITY AND DRY, READY FOR THRESHING. A NUMBER OF FIELDS CONTAINED UNCUT GRAIN, WINDROWS, AND SMALL STACKS OF STRAW -- A CLEAR INDICATION OF UNFINISHED WORK. SOME LODGING OF WINTER WHEAT WAS OBSERVED -- MORE IN THE SOUTH THAN IN THE NORTH -- BUT NOWHERE TO ANY GREAT EXTENT. IN SOME FIELDS WEEDS, MOSTLY THISTLE, ENCOURAGED BY RECENT RAINS WERE VERY NOTICEABLE. POST

-

HARVEST PLOWING WAS LIMITED AND IN SOME INSTANCES STUBBLE LOOKED GREEN BECAUSE OF WEEDS. A FEW FIELDS HAD POST-HARVEST CROPS, PRIMARILY CORN AVERAGING FOUR TO SIX INCHES HIGH. IN THE KHARKOV-ZAPOROZHE-POLTAVA-KIEV PORTION OF TRIP WINTER WHEAT WAS HARVESTED ON ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE FIELDS OBSERVED. GRAIN IN WINDROWS WAS GOOD QUALITY AND DRY. QUALITY OF UNCUT WHEAT WAS VERY GOOD TO EXCELLENT WITH ONLY LIMITED LODGING. WINTER RYE WAS IN LIMITED QUANTITIES, MOSTLY VERY GOOD AND RIPE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A FEW WINDROWED FIELDS MOST FIELDS WERE UNCUT. WINTER BARLEY WAS PRACTICALLY ALL HARVESTED, ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF TRIP. IN THE NORTHERN TIER OF THE UKRAINIAN OBLASTS SOME RYE WAS WINDROWED.

4. SPRING GRAINS: SPRING BARLEY WAS EXCELLENT EVERYWHERE; RIPE AND READY TO BE CUT. A FEW FIELDS WERE HARVESTED -- SOME IN WINDROWS. SMALL

AMOUNTS OF LODGING WAS ENCOUNTERED. THE BULK OF OATS, PERHAPS 80 PERCENT, REMAINS TO BE HARVESTED. STANDS WERE GOOD AND THICK AND EVENLY RIPE. IN ADDITION TO WEEDS (THISTLE), LODGING IN VARIOUS FIELDS RANGED FROM LIGHT TO EXTENSIVE.

5. ROW CROPS: SUNFLOWER THROUGHOUT THE TRIP WAS FOUND TO BE EXCELLENT

,

IN CLEAN EVEN STANDS, AND WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS IN FULL BLOOM. AVERAGE HEIGHT WAS SIX-SEVEN FEET. ALL CORN FOR GRAIN TASSELED WITH MANY FIELDS

HAVING WELL FORMED EARS. SUGARBEETS WERE ALL EXCELLENT; WELL DEVELOPED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 08794 251123Z

ROOTS, TWO AND ONE-HALF INCHES ACROSS THE TOP AND SIX INCHES LONG IN SOME FIELDS. MOST FIELDS WERE CLEAN -- BUT A FEW HAD EXTENSIVE WEEDS.

6. FORAGE CROPS: MOST ALFALFA FIELDS WERE SECOND GROWTH IN GOOD, CLEAN

AND EVEN STANDS. AVERAGE HEIGHT RANGED FROM 12 TO 18 INCHES. SOME FIELDS WERE BEING MOWED. CLOVER, ALSO SECOND GROWTH, WAS IN GOOD CLEAN

STANDS AVERAGING 12 TO 18 INCHES HIGH. OTHER FORAGE CROPS INCLUDED SUDAN, THREE AND ONE-HALF TO FOUR FEET HIGH IN PURE STANDS, OR MIXED WITH LEGUMES. ALL WERE GOOD AND CLEAN WITH SOME BEING MOWED. FROM KRASNODAR NORTH LARGE AMOUNT OF LATE-PLANTED CORN FOR FEED WAS

ENCOUNTERED. ALL FIELDS CLEAN AND EVEN WITH AVERAGE HEIGHT FROM TWO AND ONE-HALF TO THREE AND ONE-HALF FEET. POST-HARVEST CORN ALSO OBSERVED; ALL VERY GOOD WITH AVERAGE HEIGHT FROM FOUR TO SIX INCHES.

7. PASTURES: PASTURES WERE GENERALLY FAIR TO GOOD. NO PASTURE IMPROVE
-
MENT NOTED ANYWHERE. MOST LOW LYING MEADOWS WERE OF GOOD QUALITY WITH GOOD GROWTH.

8. SOIL MOISTURE: SOIL MOISTURE APPEARED TO BE GOOD AND THIS WAS WELL REFLECTED IN THE GOOD AND HEALTHY STANDS OF CORN, SUNFLOWER AND SUGARBEETS. MOST OF THE AREA TRAVELED HAD HAD RECENT RAINS. NO DRYING OR YELLOWING OF GRASS OR PLANTS WAS OBSERVED. ALL VEGETATION HAD LUSH GREEN COLOR WITH EVERY INDICATION OF SUFFICIENT MOISTURE.

9. LIVESTOCK: IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL RED STEPPE DAIRY CATTLE, A WHITE AND BROWN TYPE, APPARENTLY A CROSSBREED, WAS ENCOUNTERED WHICH WAS THE PREDOMINANT TYPE. ALL CATTLE WERE FAIR TO GOOD. SOME OBSERVED GRAZING ON PASTURES AND SOME ON STUBBLE.

10. MISCELLANEOUS: A GOOD SHARE OF THE BARROW PITS WERE HARVESTED, ESPECIALLY THOSE PLANTED WITH BARLEY AND WHEAT. THE GRAINS REMAINING TO BE HARVESTED WERE PRIMARILY OATS. ONE LONG STRETCH OF BUCKWHEAT WAS OBSERVED IN THE BARROW PIT, STILL IN BLOOMING STAGE. THREE OTHER LARGE BUCKWHEAT FIELDS OBSERVED WERE PAST THE BLOOMING STAGE WITH WELL FORM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 08794 251123Z

ED
GRAIN. ALL ALONG THE HIGHWAY PEASANTS WERE SELLING APPLES AND APRICOTS.

11. COMMENT: THE MOST STRIKING IMPRESSION DURING THE 1,500 MILE TRIP THROUGH NORTH CAUCASUS AND EASTERN UKRAINE WAS THE ALMOST COMPLETE ABSENCE OF HARVESTING ACTIVITIES. IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT NEAR IDEAL WEATHER PREVAILED DURING ENTIRE TRIP NO MORE THAN 30 TO 35 DIFFERENT TYPES OF EQUIPMENT, COMBINES, THRESHERS AND MOWERS, WERE OBSERVED IN THE FIELD WITH ONLY ABOUT TWO-THIRDS ACTUALLY WORKING. ANTICIPATED HEAVY TRUCK TRAFFIC TRANSPORTING GRAIN TO SILOS WAS COMPLETELY ABSENT .
DURING THE ENTIRE TRIP ONLY TWO TRUCKS CARRYING GRAIN WERE SEEN. THE FIELD OBSERVATIONS JUST CONCLUDED MARKEDLY DISAGREE WITH THE HARVEST IMAGE THE SOVIET PRESS HAS BEEN CREATING OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE ADMITTED THAT RAINS HAVE INTERFERED WITH THIS YEAR'S HARVEST, THEY CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT DESPITE ALL DIFFICULTIES "YIELDS ARE HIGH, COMBINES ARE WORKING 18 TO 20 HOUR SHIFTS, AND PLANS FOR GRAIN DELIVERY ARE BEING FULFILLED AND OVER-FULFILLED." IT

IS

REASONABLE TO ACCEPT A SLOWDOWN IN FIELD WORK DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER
CONDITIONS, BUT A COMPLETE LACK OF ACTIVITY EVERY DAY DURING THE
ENTIRE TRIP, WHILE WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE IDEAL, REMAINS AN
UNRESOLVED MYSTERY. IT APPEARS THAT THE HARVEST IS MUCH MORE ADVANCED
IN THE PRESS THAN IT ACTUALLY IS IN THE FIELDS.

DUBS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW08794
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730768/abqcegab.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <03-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status:
Subject: AGRICULTURAL OBSERVATIONS PYATIGORSK-KIEV, JULY 15-21
TAGS: EAGR, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005